New Orleans Feb 3 1865

My Dear Brother

I rec'd to day a letter from Preston which informed me of the peace health & prosperity of all my friends in Tennessee except Sister Julia. I regret much that she does not enjoy firm health. I have thought much very much of & about her since she last visited me at Bennington. The Lord restore her health & spare her life to train up her little ones in His "nurture & fear." It is a sad Mother that I am so situated as for some other cause. I think much more of my friends than I have obtained credit for heretofore. And when I read in Preston's letter that you were not going to write to me till I had written to you I must confess I was disappointed. But as perseverance forms no inconsiderable element of my character I have promptly accepted the conditions & intend to expect a letter forthwith from my Mother. As you are probably aware I am here alone. My Dear Wife & child spending the Winter & Spring in Ohio & Kentucky. I hear from them every

success but it is not like living with them. Were it not that I am continually pleasantly acceptably & usefully employed here I should be exceedingly unhappy in this separation as it is I have some lonely hours. But on the whole I am convinced that I have great cause to bless God for directing my steps hither. I never before in such a noble field for Christian action. I have thrown my whole heart & soul into the work & the blessing of our Kind & gracious Heavenly Father is daily crowning our efforts with success. Two weeks since I organized my Sunday School. I had visited around & endeavored to make up some interest previously but Parents & children generally were alike indifferent. Yesterday two children came in & the S. School was opened - notices were out the close of 2 weeks our School numbers 120 children & 12 teachers. My congregation has increased from some 15 or 20 to 100 or more adults. My room in Linn is full & they are going to erect a church edifice for me to be completed if possible before I leave in June next. The Lord has given me much favor in the sight of this people for the short time I have been here. May I not be puffed up but ascribe all the glory of my success to his unmerited

goodness & grace. I have already 12 communicants & 6 or 8 others ready & will soon cast in their lot with the people of God. I have scarce preached a sermon but I have seen some inquiring in the assembly. God grant that they may prove tears of penitence. I am agreeably disappointed in this City. There is wickedness enough in it without doubt. But I do not recollect ever enjoying so much good christian society in the same length of time before. Pure religion & undefiled is on the increase. Two Episcopal churches - one Presbyterian - one Baptist & one Methodist are gaining at this season. The Lord grant that in them all the "good seed of the Kingdom" may be scattered broad cast. The grave for my church is already purchased at a cost of $20.50, It is sufficiently large for a parsonage also - which I now expect will be in readiness for me on my return next Autumn. This has been a delightful winter. Two mornings only have been ice. A great portion of the time it has been as pleasant as a Vermont September. My health has been thus far perfect - have not had the slightest touch of Asthma & no colds & coughs - no dyspepsia - & am probably more fleshy - healthy - vigorous & stronger than I have been in 15 years past. I am glad I am here. Thus far I love the South. Preston - is a Southern name. I have heard of several of this Name in the vicinity. It is a name re

spected too. I hope I shall not disgrace it.

Now Mother - I can't write you any more this time - The Lord willing I am coming up to see you next summer - in the meantime - forth with write me a letter. This - with a great deal of love to Sister Mary & Julia &c. &c - from

Your affectionate Son
N. O. Preston

Mary P. Fisher
Care of H. H. Smith Esq
Governeur
St Lawrence Co
N.Y.

NORTH ... FEB 3 ...

Preston tells me that Sister Mary does her own work for her family. Is it a matter of necessity or choice? Between this & next June I expect 3 letters from Gouverneur. One from yourself & from Sisters M & J each one N. O P